OLD ENGLAND.

By ARGUS CENTOCULI, *Inſpector-General of* Great-Britain.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1751. [N°. 356.]

Priſca recenſitis evolvite ſecula faſtis.
CLAUD. *in* EUTROP.

SINCE Standing Armies have been ſo much in Faſhion among the Princes of *Europe*, the Word *Review* has been ſo conſtantly impreſſed into the military Service, that it is almoſt become a technical Term of the military Science. And yet this very innocent Word, tho' now made ſo formidable by the Uſe of it, ſignified no more originally than barely a Looking-back upon, or taking a Retroſpect of, any Thing that was paſt, whether in the natural, civil, political, or moral World.

If we conſider the Uſe of it in the civil and political Senſes only, and compared with the Practice of our Anceſtors, this *Review* will inform us, that it was the Cuſtom of antient Times, at the Opening of every Seſſion of Parliament, to look back upon what had paſſed ſince the Cloſe of the Seſſion laſt preceding, and ſometimes to carry the Retroſpect much further, when the Encroachments of the Crown, or the Abuſes committed by weak or wicked Miniſters, rendered it neceſſary to give the People ſome immediate Redreſs, in regard to Grievances that had been long growing on them, and were become intollerable. It is by this Practice, that ſome of the fundamental Pillars of our Conſtitution have been ſo long preſerved; that ſeveral Infractions, which had been made on that venerable Building, have been occaſionally repaired; and that ſometimes new Beauties, as well as greater Solidity, have been added to the whole Structure.

If it cannot be ſaid of very modern Times, that much Skill or Labour have been exhibited in our political Architecture, we muſt aſcribe it to the Want of frequent and proper *Reviews* of the preſent State of our Conſtitution. We do not ſeem deſirous to know, at leaſt we do not ſeem ſo in our collective Capacity, what our Condition really is, what has been done for our Benefit or our Prejudice within the Years that are laſt elapſed. And yet, if we conſider the Matter rightly, this is ſo much our Duty and Intereſt, that without it we cannot rationally expect to preſerve entire

——The Laws, the Rights,
The generous Plan of Power deliver'd down,
From Age to Age, by our renown'd Forefathers,
So dearly bought, the Price of ſo much Blood!

But we ought to be ſo far from turning the Negligence of paſt Years into a Precedent for future, that the very Thoughts of this long Inattention ſhould make us doubly vigilant, to prevent or avert the fatal Conſequences of it. The Work of a *Review* muſt be the more arduous and difficult, in Proportion to the Time over which it is to extend: Theſe Difficulties muſt of neceſſity encreaſe every Year, while the ſame Cauſes are ſuffered to remain.

We have known the *Criſis*, when a Motion for a Retroſpect of Twenty Years, was over-ruled, merely becauſe it had been ſo long neglected, and it was thought impoſſible, at ſuch a Diſtance of Time, to procure all the neceſſary Lights that might enable the going thro' it with Satisfaction. And when a Ten Year's *Review* was afterwards agreed to, and reſolved on, even that was found too large a Field to travel circumſpectly over, and unravel by the way all the Perplexities of miniſterial Wiles, and turn up all the Filth of Corruption that lay concealed under a thin and deceitful Surface.

The Conſequence was, that, tho' the State-Inquiſitors had been animated to their Work by a long and vigorous Oppoſition, though to all Appearance every one was in earneſt to perform his Part of it, they were yet obliged to ſtop ſhort in the Midſt of their Task. Two imperfect Reports they made, one of which came out by Authority, and the other with Connivance; but they were both far ſhort of what was expected from ſuch an Enquiry, and ſerved only to ſhew the great Error of permitting the chief Servants of the Public to be too long unaccountable.

The Power they are inveſted with, and the Intereſt of their Tools and Dependents added to their own, will always enable them to ſecrete from every Eye, except that which conſtantly attends to Tranſactions as they paſs, a great Part of that Guilt or Folly which might render them the Objects of public Hatred or Contempt. And all the while they are thus neglected, there is Reaſon for the ſtrongeſt Preſumption againſt them, that they are weakening the Conſtitution they ought to ſupport; and endeavouring, by the Arts of Corruption and Diſſimulation, to poiſon and deſtroy the very Spirit itſelf of Enquiry.

Should it ever be the Fate of this Nation, to ſee that Spirit entirely lifeleſs and extinct, one may ſafely pronounce, that the Spirit of Liberty would not long ſurvive. All the political Virtues would die away one after another, as the Eyes of *Argus* were extinguiſhed, when touched by the ſoporiferous Wand of *Hermes*. Does it not import us therefore, with all imaginable Zeal, to prevent this Day of Darkneſs from falling on us, by conſtantly throwing as much Light as poſſible upon thoſe Affairs, which would not be miſterious, were it not for the Artifices of Miniſters?

A Nation, which, tho' not abſolutely bankrupt, is more in Debt than all her *Specie* four Times told over would amount to, has very manifeſt Reaſon to have her Circumſtances examined. The Public ought to know, whether it was from unavoidable Cauſes, or thro' the Miſmanagement of thoſe who had the Conduct of their public Affairs, that they were brought into this State of Difficulty and Diſtreſs.

When they ſee one of their largeſt Money'd Companies, with whoſe Credit that of the Public is in a great meaſure connected, reduced from a Trading Body (as in a Country that depends on Trade, every Money'd Corporation ought to be) to the Condition of mere Bankrupts, employed only to negotiate the Intereſt of the Public Debts betwixt the Government and the National Creditors, has not every Individual great Cauſe to be alarmed for the Safety of the whole Society? When the very Management of this *Banking Buſineſs*, and of every other Buſineſs in which the Public has any Concern, is ſuſpected to be made only the Means of Corruption and Attachment to the Party of a M———ry againſt the People, it would be equally wonderful and dangerous, if the latter were not immediately provoked to cry aloud for Redreſs.

I do not take upon me to ſay, how far this is at preſent the real State of *G—t B——n:* That would be raſhly to anticipate the Conſequence of ſuch an Inquiry as I am arguing only to promote. If the People in general are but doubtful on all or ſome of theſe Heads, it is however moſt reaſonable, that their Doubt ſhould be removed, by a clear and candid Expoſition of the Conduct of Public Affairs, both foreign and domeſtic, as far back as it is poſſible to unravel the Clue of them. But if the Cloud, which hangs over theſe Matters, be of ſuch a Nature as to occaſion more than Doubt, and cauſe ſuch a Suſpicion as almoſt amounts to a firm Belief on the diſadvantageous Side, the Neceſſity of ſuch an Inquiry as we are pleading for, becomes ſtill the more ſtrong and evident.

There is one Argument which ought never to be omitted in a Diſcourſe of this Kind, and which, tho' Miniſters will not acquieſce in, neither they nor their Apologiſts could ever refute or deſtroy the Force of. It is, that M———rs themſelves, if their whole Conduct has been juſt and upright, not biaſſed by partial or corrupt Motives, have an Intereſt that ſuch Reviews or Inquiries ſhould be frequently made. They may be very certain, if, upon the Reſult of the Scrutiny it ſhall appear, that they have in general been guided by Principles of Honeſty and Integrity, that their ultimate End was always the Public Benefit, a good-natured Nation will be ſo far from being ſevere on the little Errors of human Frailty, or Miſtakes into which they were inadvertently betrayed, that it will pronounce them upon the whole to be good and faithful Servants. This Approbation will have more Weight with a truly virtuous Miniſter, will be more ambitiouſly laboured for by him, than the Acquiſition of immenſe Wealth, or ſuch a Power as is rendered Proof, by a Standing Army of mercenary Dependents, againſt all Oppoſition from the real Friends of their Country.

We have heard of Times, when Miniſters have been ſo audaciouſly inſolent, in the Plenitude of their Power, as not only to ſet the People at Defiance, but to brave even the S———n himſelf. We have heard of K—gs who have not been ſuffered to chuſe their own Servants, tho' into Places that had leſs to do with the Adminiſtration of Government, than with the Pomp and Splendor of Majeſty. But as no body will preſume *to ſay*, that any ſuch prepoſterous Policy has of late Years prevailed, we will not inſiſt upon it any further.

We may affirm however, at all Times, that if it be the Intereſt of honeſt M———rs to have their Conduct inquired into, ſuch M———rs, as by all the Arts in their Power, endeavour to ward off an Inquiry, give too much Room to ſuſpect, that they are under uneaſy Apprehenſions in regard to the Conſequences of it. But this is nothing to the People, or to the Repreſentatives of the People, who are not to be afraid of doing Juſtice to themſelves, becauſe, in ſo doing, they may poſſibly bring Delinquents to Diſgrace.

In fine, Common-Senſe, the Practice of antient Parliaments, and the Judgment of the People in general, do all concur in this Point: That Public Grievances ought to be inquired into, and redreſſed as often as there is Opportunity to bring them before the Legiſlature; That this Regard to the People ought at leaſt to go hand in hand with, if not precede, a Compliance with the pecuniary Demands of Miniſters; and that where the firſt of theſe is neglected, and the latter made almoſt the ſole Buſineſs of annual National Aſſemblies, the People ſeem in Danger of loſing the Eſſence of Liberty, though they may preſerve the Form of it, and are in Reality more injuriouſly treated at a much greater Expence, than they might be, if all they earn and poſſeſs were at the Diſpoſal of a C——t.

LONDON.

On Wedneſday was held a General Court at the Southſea-Houſe, when, after many Debates, they came to the following Reſolution:

" Reſolved,

That it is the Opinion of this Court, that in the preſent Situation of the Company's Affairs, the Fund of the Trading Stock, or any Part thereof, is not redeemable by Law, without the Conſent of the Company; and having an entire Confidence in the Faith of Parliament, they do not agree to accept the Propoſal now read, and which was laid before the Court on the 10th Inſt."

The Propoſal abovementioned was this:

That, upon the Government's continuing to the Company an Intereſt of 4 per Cent. per Ann. on their preſent Capital of 3,662,784l. 8s. 6d. for 7 Years, and then to be reduced to 3 per Cent. per Annum, —the Company will undertake to pay off 2,325,023l. 7s. 11d. Old and New Southſea Annuities, unſubſcribed; 1,220,928l. 2s. 10d. of which, to carry an Intereſt at 3 1-half per Cent. for

5 Years, & then to be reduced to 3 per Cent.—— And the Remainder being 1,104,095 l. 5s. 1d. at an Intereſt of 3 per Cent. 'till paid off out of ſuch Monies as ſhall be applied by Parliament out of the National Debt, after Payment of 1,100,000 l. or thereabouts, lately agreed to be advanced by the Bank of England; and in caſe they ſhall not receive the firſt Monies that ſhall be applied by Parliament, then the Southſea Company are to be paid the ſaid 1,104,095 l. 5 s. 1 d. in any Sums not leſs than 100,000 l. at any Time.——'Tis ſaid the Company will apply to Parliament for Redreſs, on account of the Loſſes they have ſuſtained for ſome Years paſt, in their Trade.

Thurſday his Majeſty went to the Houſe of Peers, attended by the Earl of Aſhburnham and Lord Cadogan, the two Lords of the Bedchamber in waiting, and opened the Seſſion of Parliament, with a moſt gracious Speech from the Throne.

Thurſday Sir Edw. Seymour took the Oaths and his Seat in the Houſe of Peers as Duke of Somerſet.

As did the Earl of Beſborough of the Kingdom of Ireland, as Baron Syſonby in the County of Leiceſter.

Alſo the Earl of Hertford. And the Right Rev. Dr. Joſeph Butler, as Lord Biſhop of Durham.

His Majeſty has appointed the Right Hon. the Earl of Pomfret, Ranger and Keeper of St. James's and Hyde Parks, in the room of the late Ld Weymouth.

We hear that the Rt Hon. the Lord Carpenter is gone down to Dorcheſter, to offer himſelf a Candidate for that Borough.

The King has been pleaſed to grant unto John Sumner, D. D. and one of his Majeſty's Chaplains in Ordinary, the Place of a Prebendary of the Free Chapel of St. George in the Caſtle of Windſor, void by the Death of D. Ja. Barclay.

Laſt Saturday the Rev. Mr. Southernwood, Senior Fellow of King's College in Cambridge, was inducted into the Rectory of Walkern in Hertfordſhire, worth upwards of 300 l. per Ann.

The King has appointed Tho. Beach, Eſq; his Attorney-General in Jamaica, in the room of Rob. Penny, deceaſed.

A curious Monument of fine Marble is preparing to be erected in Weſtminſter Abbey, to the Memory of the late Duke of Richmond, with an Epitaph ſuitable to his Character.

A Subſcription is opened at Newcaſtle upon Tyne, for building an Hoſpital there, for Relief of Sick & Lame Poor. And a Bill will be brought in this Seſſions, for lighting the ſaid Town, and eſtabliſhing a regular Watch there.

A Committee from the Governors of the Foundling Hoſpital, waited on Thurſday 7-night on the Society of the Free Britiſh Fiſhery, at Mercers-Hall; when they generouſly offered to let ſuch Foundlings as were ſtrong enough, to be employed in weaving Twine, making Nets, Ropes, &c. for the Service of the aforeſaid Society; which Propoſal was thankfully accepted.

Thurſday the Hon. the Eaſt-India Company received Diſpatches over Land, from Bombay, dated May 8, by which they had Advice, that the Warren, Capt. Glover, was not arrived there; and that the Elizabeth, Capt. Wills, ſailed from Fort St. David the 14th Feb. bound home.

Sir Ja. Lowther, who ſuffered the Amputation of his Leg, and was imminently endangered, is perfectly recovered.

A few Days ago died, aged 96, at Tregony in Cornwall, John Williams, Eſq; Repreſentative in Parliament in two Seſſions in the Reign of Queen Anne, & High Sheriff of that County in 1712.

Laſt Week died, at his Seat near Lyme in Cheſhire, Ja. Woſtal, Eſq; aged 104 Years, the oldeſt Gentleman in the County, poſſeſſed of 1500 l. a Year.

Monday an old Man in his own grey Hair, ſat down at a Shop Door next the Houſes lately burnt at Charing-Croſs, ſtretched himſelf out and died immediately: He was about 70 Years of Age, and in a Dutch Sailor's Dreſs.

Thurſday a Boat was ſunk near Somerſet-houſe, by 2 Barges which had broke from their Anchors, & drove by the Tide, whereby a Woman Paſſenger was drowned. The Waterman was taken up at Faul's Wharf, ſpeechleſs and almoſt dead.

His Majeſty's Free Pardon has paſſed the Great Seal unto Richard Double, of Suſſex, Labourer.—And alſo to John Trower, John Geering, and Tho. Holman, for the Murder of Mich. Bath, provided the two former tranſport themſelves for 14 Years, and the two latter do ſo for their Lives.

Great Intereſt is making for a further Reſpite of Joſhua Weſt, condemned for embezzling the Money of the Bank.

Wedneſday the Seſſions began at the Old Bailey, when 19 Priſoners were tried, one whereof was capitally convicted, viz.

James Field the Stage Boxer, for robbing David Woodman, of 13s. near Moorfields.

Thurſday 20 were tried, and 2 were convicted capitally,

Jof. Farris, for ſtealing Plate & Money out of the Houſe of Mr. Collingwood.

And Hugh Dun, for forging and publiſhing a Bill of Exchange, for 50l. with Intent to defraud.

This will be a long Seſſion, there being ſtill upwards of 60 to try.

Laſt Week at the Quarter Seſſions of the Peace for Weſtminſter, a Dancing Maſter, who was taken into Cuſtody about three Months ago, was tried for Sodomitical Practices in St. James's Park. He was ſentenced to pay One Shilling Fine, to ſtand one Hour in the Pillory, and to be impriſoned three Months.

On Tueſday a Saleſman was fined in the Sum of 5 l. purſuant to Act of Parliament, for buying a Shirt of a private Soldier of the Third Regiment of Foot Guards.

Tueſday Morning near 100 Felons, under Sentence of Tranſportation, were ſhipped for America. Above 30 have died in Newgate, ſince receiving Sentence.

Laſt Saturday John Nicholſon, alias Nim and Doll, a noted Street-Robber and Highwayman, was taken at the Angel at Deptford, and committed under a ſtrong Guard to Rocheſter Jail. It is ſaid he is charged with upwards of 20 Robberies, and is the Head of a deſperate Gang.

On Sunday laſt as one Mrs. Ambroſe, who lives in King-ſtreet, Seven Dials, was going to Church, ſhe was met by two Sharpers genteelly dreſſed, who who asked her if ſhe would accept of Charity, and told her, they were People employed to diſtribute Money; but inſiſted firſt on ſeeing what Situation ſhe was in. On this, ſhe took them to her Lodgings, and they left her, promiſing to return with a handſome Gift; but they were no ſooner gone, than the poor Woman diſcovered theſe barbarous Villains had robbed her of 3 Shifts, & 17 s.

On Saturday laſt two Gentlemen in a Poſt-chaiſe were robbed in a Lane between Uxbridge and Beaconsfield, by a ſingle Highwayman, who took from them about Two Guineas, their Watches, and one of the Gentlemen's Sword; but behaved with great Civility, and upon the Owner's ſaying he had a Value for the Sword, he returned it, ſaying, if it had been ſet with Diamonds, he would not have taken it, and that it was the laſt Neceſſity that drove him to that Employ.

On Sunday Night laſt, about 9, Hen. Revely, Eſq; was robbed at the End of Bedford Row, by 2 Fellows, of 14 Guineas; but he had the good Fortune to ſave his Gold Watch, and a Bill of 25 l.

Saturday Night ſeveral Fellows armed with Blunderbuſſes, Piſtols, and Cutlaſſes, beſet the Houſe of Mr. Marriot at Moreton in Surry, demanding Entrance, and on Refuſal to murder the whole Family, but ſome Whitſters being informed of it, came armed with Guns and Bludgeons to Mr. Marriot's Aſſiſtance, which the Ruffians ſuſpecting made off without perpetrating their Villainy. They in the Hurry left a Cutlaſs and two Piſtols.

Extract of a Letter from Barbadoes, Nov. 16.

"A Flag of Truce arrived here a few Days ago, with Compliments to our Governor from the new Governor of Martinico, who is juſt arrived, and ſends our Governor Word, that he has Orders to evacuate the Neutal Iſlands which the French have poſſeſſed themſelves of: But we have had News of this ſo often theſe eighteen Monts paſt, that we are not ſo very forward to give Credit to it.

"We hear that upon enquiry being made into the Deſtination of the Squadron now ſitting out at Breſt, on board of which a great Number of Volunteers are to embark, with a fine Train of Artillery, &c. the French Court has made Anſwer that the ſaid Squadron is to go and make a Settlement at or near Anamabou, on the Coaſt of Guiney; and that ſhe hopes the Engliſh need not take Umbrage at it. How ſuch an Anſwer has been reliſhed, we are not yet informed."

BANKRUPTS.

Alex. Scott, of Buſh-lane, Cannon-Street, London, Merchant.

John Read, of St. Martin's Street, Leiceſter-fields, Middleſex, Mariner and Merchant.

Jonathan Gammon, of the City of Cheſter, Woollendraper.

Jacob Watſon, of Smock-Alley, Spitalfields, in Middleſex, Grocer and Chapman.

Jeremiah Siſſon, of St. Clement's, Middleſex, Mathematical Inſtrument-maker.

Peter Bean & Joſeph Walter, late of Hoxton, Middleſex, Dyers, Callico-Printers, & Partners.

Mrs. Keith's Corpſe was removed from her Husband's Houſe in May-Fair, the Middle of October 1749, to an Apothecary's in South-Audley Street, where ſhe lies in a Room hung with Mourning, and is to continue there 'till Mr. Keith can attend the Funeral.——Several Perſons belonging to Churches and Chapels, together with many others, ſuppoſing the Marriages at May-Fair New Chapel detrimental to their Intereſt, have made it their Buſineſs to raiſe and clamour, but in ſuch a Manner as not to deſerve an Anſwer, becauſe every thing they have ſaid tended only to expoſe their own Ignorance and Malice, in the Opinion of People of good Senſe and Underſtanding.—The Way to Mr. Keith's Chapel is through Piccadilly, by the End of St. James's-Street, and down Clarges-Street, and turn on the Left-Hand. The Marriages (together with a Licence on a Five Shilling Stamp, and Certificate) are carried on for a Guinea as uſual, any Time 'till Four in the Afternoon, by another regular Clergyman, at Mr. Keith's Little Chapel in May-Fair, near Hyde-Park Corner, oppoſite the Great Chapel, and within Ten Yards of it. There is a Porch at the Door like a Country-Church Porch.

COUNTRY NEWS.

Southam, Warwickshire, Jan. 14. On Friday the 11th Inſtant, Mr. Wood of this Town, Mr. Brabſon of Long Itchington, and ſeveral other Perſons, were robbed on Dunſmore Heath, between this Place and Coventry, by two Highwaymen; the one on a very duſty black, or dark brown Horſe near 15 Hands high, of the Sporting kind, with a bald Face, and founder'd; the Rider a Gentleman-like tall thin Man, and ſuppoſed about forty Years old: The other a broad-made Perſon, who paſſed for the Servant, on a good bay Mare, about 14 Hands and a half high, of the trotting kind.

Goſport, Jan 10. On Saturday a Court Martial was held on board the Tyger Man of War in the Harbour, on a Foremaſt Man for Deſertion. He was ſentenced to have twenty Laſhes along ſide each of his Majeſty's Ships and Sloops in the Harbour, and on Monday he underwent the Puniſhment purſuant to his Sentence.

Ingateſtone, Jan. 12. As Admiral Rowley, with a grand Retinue, was paſſing to London from his Country Seat, his Butler, being ſome little Way behind, was attacked by two Highwaymen near this Town, who forced him down a Lane, the Road Side, and ſwore they would blow his Brains out, if he did not give them his Money, being aſſured he had a conſiderable Sum, as he paid his Maſter's Bills and travelling Expences on the Road; but one of the Highwaymen alighting, in order to pull him from his Horſe, he preſented a Piſtol he had about him at the other, which miſſing fire, the Highwayman preſented one to him alſo in return, which miſſed Fire likewiſe, upon which the Butler's Horſe taking Fright, rode away with him, and he thereby eſcaped being robbed.

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Presently without Pain, by Pleasing & Delighting the Child.

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